

Appl. No. 09/871,608  
Amdt. Dated September 15, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of June 15, 2005

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A tension member, comprising a plurality of fiber filaments gathered into a plurality of strands in which the filaments run close together, around which strands there is provided a protective sheath, wherein between the strands and the protective sheath there are provided spacing elements, which spacing elements define an inner continuous cavity adapted to receive a plurality of strands, said cavity having a cross section corresponding to, at least, approximately the total cross section of all the strands, and that each strand is coated on the exterior thereof with a strand sheath of a material having a low friction coefficient, permitting the strands to move longitudinally in relation to one another and independently of each other.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the strand sheath consists of polyethylene or polyurethane.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements are provided with recesses, which recesses are adapted to the cross-sectional form of the adjacent strands.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The tension member according to claim 13, wherein the spacing elements are equipped with complementary locking elements ~~or~~ on their adjoining surfaces.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The tension member according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the spacing elements comprises a material having buoyancy in water.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements consist of PVC.

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Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements consist of a material having buoyancy in water.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the filaments are wound at a ~~maximum~~ pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the ~~stands~~ strands are to be coiled.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the strands are wound at a ~~maximum~~ pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the tension member is to be coiled.